

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02251 121655Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02

SY-05 IO-11 SAB-01 OC-05 CCO-00 /088 W

----- 112212

O 121635Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8991

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI LE

SUBJ: COUP STILL GATHERING MOMENTUM

1. AL-AHDAB'S COUP CONTINUES TO GATHER STRENGTH. KATAEB PARTY HAS NOT TAKEN FINAL DECISION, BUT FACTIONS SUPPORTING COUP SEEM TO BE WINNING INTRA-PARTY DEBATE. CHAMOUN REPORTEDLY MAKING NOISES SHOWING HE ACCEPTS INEVITABILITY OF FRANGIE RESIGNATION, BUT HE INSISTS ON "LEGALITY" OF WAY IT IS DONE.

2. MANY MEMBERS OF PARLIMENT HELD UNOFFICIAL SESSION MARCH 12 IN WHICH CONSENSUS WAS THAT GRANGIE MUST RESIGN. PARLIMENT SEARCHING FOR FORMULA GIVING DIGNIFIED EXIST TO PRESIDENT.

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GROUP OF DEPUTIES DELIGATED TO COME UP WITH PLAN AFTER WHICH

PARLIMENT WILL HOLD OFFICIAL PLENARY, POSSIBLY MARCH 13 OR
14.

3. MARONITE LEADERSHIP INCLUDING CHAMOIN AND PIERRE GEMAYEL
HELD MEETING UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF PATRIOT KRISH MARCH 12
AT BKERKE. THEY TOO AGREED FRANGIE RESIGNATION IS ONLY POSSIBLE
STEP. THEY LEANING TOWARD BECHARA AL-KHOURY'S 1952 PRECEDENT
WHEN KHOURY APPOINTED THREE MAN CABINET UNDER GEN. FUAD CHEHAB
BEFORE RESIGNING. BARKARE GROUP PUSHING IDEA THAT FRANGIE
SHOULD APPOINT NEW CABINET UNDER COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF HANNA SAID,
THEN RESIGN.
LAMBRAKIS

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NNN

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